

JASON Project

The goals of the JASON Multimedia Science Curriculum Project are to (a) provide students with “building blocks” to construct inquiry tools and engage in scientific discovery; (b) expose students to multiple research expeditions (live and via the Web) with interdisciplinary curriculum; and (c) develop consistent framework for all curriculum materials, from year to year.

The project is implemented in upper elementary and middle school teachers and students (grades 4 – 9), and currently reaches approximately 25,000 teachers and 1 million students. This multimedia and interdisciplinary science curriculum is delivered through three interrelated components: a print curriculum, a live expedition broadcast and videos, and an online delivery system. It supports teachers’ use of the curriculum through three professional development venues: an annual national conference for educators, professional development at local and regional sites, and online professional development opportunities (e.g., JASON Academy).

The project evaluation being conducted by CCT is focused on the impact of the curriculum on teachers’ use and student learning of science and technology, and uses both qualitative (e.g., case studies) and quantitative methodologies (e.g., repeated measures). The evaluators are working closely with nine schools, investigating their use of the curriculum and its impact on teachers and students, using interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, surveys, classroom observations, inquiry and content assessment tools, and JASON online databases (e.g., journals, message boards, digital labs, and chat) in the 2002-03 school year.

Another phase of the CCT evaluation is a pilot study that focuses on whether the JASON multimedia science curriculum affects student performance on science, based on their standardized state test scores. This pilot study is being conducted in Maine and Ohio where CCT is working closely with governmental agencies and not-for-profit organizations, including Maine State Department of Education and Ohio State of Education staff, the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA), the Ohio State Department of Education.